

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Shortages in Various Czech Industries

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1. A total of about 90,000 workers are employed in nationalized mines and foundries in Czechoslovakia. It is expected that the production of iron and steel in 1950 will very nearly fulfill the industry's quota of three million tons.
2. Construction of river boats in the Prague and Komarno (P48/Y76) shipyards is falling behind schedule because of a critical lack of steel plate.
3. The 1950 quota for the building industry under the Five Year Plan was fulfilled to 40 percent during the first half of the year because of the lack of skilled workers and of the necessary construction materials. This lack is especially critical in such items as water and drainage pipes and electrical equipment. Many buildings under construction cannot be finished for this reason. In Slovakia the industry's quota has been fulfilled to 50 percent by paying higher wages to the workers than is allowed by the government. Planned budgets of the industry have been surpassed by 150 percent (sic).
4. Plants of the Tatra national enterprise in Prague-Smichov and Ceska Lipa (O51/P75), which seized an estimated two-year supply of raw materials from the Germans in 1945, do not have the 10 percent reserve of raw material necessary for continuous production. It was agreed, therefore, at a directors' conference in June 1950 to inform the Ministry of Industry that it will be necessary to operate the plants for only three months out of the year or to release 75 percent of the employees and continue production throughout the year at a sharply reduced rate.
5. The Viktoria porcelain plant in Stara Role near Karlovy Vary (Karlshad N51/P69) is suffering from a shortage of coloring materials. Unless France supplies this material, the plant will not be able to fulfill an order for china from England.

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